

Site: M:26/13/5

Reading/Typhoid House

Built: 1884/85

308 Baltimore Road

Private

This house is known for its identification as the locus of a 1913 typhoid epidemic that swept the City; this incident led to the construction of Rockville's first central sewage disposal system. The 1-1/2 story frame vernacular Victorian was one of several houses built for the Reading family. The Readings were active in the commercial and political leadership of the town and were the first to promote development east of the B&O railroad tracks.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ noNR ☐ yes ☒ no

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Typhoid House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street &amp; number 308 Baltimore Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Rockville

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 8

state Maryland

county

Montgomery (RV Planning Area 2)

### 3. Classification

#### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☒ not applicable

#### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

#### Accessible

☐ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☒ no

#### Present Use

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military  
☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sarah McCoy Patrick

street &amp; number 511 Bradford Drive

telephone no.: 424-6532

city, town Rockville

state and zip code

Maryland 20850

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Montgomery Co. Land Records

4808

liber

street &amp; number

Montgomery Co. Courthouse

119

folio

city, town

Rockville

state

Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (1976)

te

Park Historians Office

☐ federal☐ state☒ county☐ local

depository for survey records

Needwood Mansion, Needwood Road

city, town

Derwood

state Maryland 20855

## 7. Description

Survey No. M:26/13/5

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces south on Baltimore Road, situated on a narrow lot with a shallow setback, the remnant of a 48 acre site now subdivided and reduced by street widening. It rests on a low foundation, almost flush with the ground in the front. A parking area on the front southeast corner is accessed from Baltimore Road.

This ca. 1884 frame, T-shaped, three-bay by three-bay main block with two bay rear wing is a 2-1/2 story vernacular Victorian with a steeply pitched center front gabled dormer on a cross gabled roof covered with patterned tin shingles. The house is sheathed with asbestos wood-grained siding and rests on a fieldstone foundation. It has one corbelled interior brick chimney on the main block rear slope and another interior chimney at the end of the rear wing.

In plan, the side-hall square main block has a slightly recessed rear wing with a shed-roofed dormer on the east side. The regular fenestration, prominent steeply-pitched center front gable, and full-width front porch are marks of a vernacular late Victorian house. The Victorian trims common to this type, such as turned posts, corner brackets, and clapboard siding with decorative shingles, have been removed. Wooden louvered shutters flank 4/4 windows with slightly projecting surrounds which has prominent sills and drip caps.

The three-bay south (front) facade has a front gabled dormer with a central 1/1 window. A corniceboard with crown molding separates the gable from the main block of the house. This gable area was probably originally finished with decorative shingling or another siding variation. One window is in each of the three second story bays. Longer windows are in the two west first story bays. A wood-panelled one-light exterior door topped by a rectangular transom occupies the east bay. The full width front porch has a low-hipped seamed tin roof supported by four square posts, a later replacement. There is no balustrade and the floor is concrete.

The west facade is formed of the three-bay main block and two-bay rear wing. The main block has one window centered in the gable, two closely spaced windows in the two north bays both first and second story, and one window in the south bay first and second story. The rear wing has one window each bay first and second story. There are two rectangular cellar windows in the wing foundation.

continued on attachment 7.1

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The two-bay north (rear) facade consists of the north side of the rear wing. Two rectangular six-light windows are in the gable and one window in each of the two second-story bays. There is a rectangular screened window opening in the east bay, first story, and a modern exterior door in the west bay. An exterior cellar door, faced with narrow vertical siding, is in the exposed foundation. A modern raised deck with stairs to the ground is attached to the first story.

The east facade has a three-bay main block with two-bay rear wing. The main block has a window in the gable, and one window in each bay of both first and second story. The rear wing has one window each bay, second story, and one smaller window in the south bay, first story. A large shed-roofed dormer on the wing has one window. There is a cellar window opening in the wing foundation, a coal chute opening with a door covered in narrow vertical siding, and two cellar windows in the main foundation.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/13/5

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

local history

Specific dates 1884/85 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Significance

The Reading family developed the lands east of the Rockville Railroad Depot and owned this Victorian house for 35 years. This site is associated with a typhoid fever epidemic in 1913 that was the impetus for the construction of Rockville's central sewage disposal system.

### History and Support

William Reading purchased 49 acres of land north of Baltimore Road and east of the B&O Railroad Depot from the William Brewer estate in 1884. 1/ The subject house was constructed soon after the purchase, and was the first of three Reading family houses built in the area over the next eight years. 2/ Although Reading platted a nearby subdivision now called "Rockville Park", land formerly owned by Brewer was not divided into building lots until 1924, at which time it was named "Croydon Park".

Joseph Reading followed his father to Rockville after the death of his wife in 1890. He opened a drug store in town and probably occupied 308 Baltimore Road until the construction of his own home in 1893. 3/ When the elder Reading died in 1897 Joseph was Mayor of Rockville; later the same year he remarried. 4/ Joseph and his nephew John G. Reading were the co-owners of the 49 acre tract and the Baltimore Road property until Joseph sold the house and one acre to his partner John G. in 1917. At that time the assessment valued the lot at \$400, the improvements at \$2000.

The Reading house is located on a ridge of land near a fresh water spring that drains into a stream once known as "Monkey Run". In 1897, The Mayor and Council of Rockville purchased 20,000 square feet of the elevated land, sunk a well, and constructed a pumping station for the town water supply. 5/ Although the town provided water to its residents, sewage and its disposal was the responsibility of the Town Scavenger who cleaned individual privies. In some areas open drains

Continued on attachments 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

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ran to the nearest low ground like "Monkey Run"; these low grounds were a source of odor, disease and the constant subject of Council debates over a 20 year period. 6./ In 1904 cesspools were banned within the City limits, but there were only a handful of flush toilets, and typhoid fever was not uncommon.

Unusually heavy precipitation fell in the winter of 1913-14. Between January 15 and February 1, 1914 an epidemic of 21 cases of typhoid was reported in Rockville. The Maryland Department of Health requested an investigation by the U.S. Public Health Service. 7/ The results of this investigation pointed to the house at 308 Baltimore Road, located within 400 feet of the town well and pumping station, as the source of contamination. The house was built near an underground spring and seepage from the house's privy had entered the town's water system by way of the "secret ditch" and the inadequately drilled town well. 8/ The Health Service published its investigative methods and techniques nationally in its Bulletin. The City Council immediately installed a central sewerage system. By the end of the year a bond issue was before the Maryland General Assembly, and by 1916 all houses were required to hook up to this main system.

The Reading House and one acre were sold in 1922 to Elizabeth Welsh. When Croydon Park was platted in 1924 "the Welsh Parcel" became lots 6,7,8,9 & 27 of Block C. In 1929 Margaret Ward purchased the property. Porter Ward, her husband, was one of the owners of Rockville Fuel and Feed Company. The Wards owned several properties in various parts of Rockville. The Croydon Park lots were used as a garden plot. The house was rented out, sometimes as a boarding house. During the housing shortage of the 1940s, 308 Baltimore road was divided into three apartment units. In 1963 the Wards replatted the lots for individual sale, and the house became Lot 46 of Block C. 9/

The Fafco Construction Company purchased the property in 1963. Between 1963 and 1965 this company bought and sold 21 of the older, deteriorating homes around Rockville for modernization and renovation. Renovations to 308 Baltimore Road included new siding, roofing, and fenestration resulting in the removal of most of the Victorian decorative elements.

The present owner, Sarah McCoy Patrick, purchased the house in 1976.  
10/

Footnotes on Attachment 8.2

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records EBP30/387 (1884).
2. The house is dated 1884/85 based on the Tax Records which show an improvement on Reading's part of "Haymond's Addition" in 1885. Over the next few years additional houses were listed as owned by William Reading and his wife Mary or son Joseph; two of the houses were valued between \$3,500 and \$4,500.
3. Joseph Reading built his new house in 1893. It was designed by T.C. Groomes and located between Highland and Croydon Avenues (now demolished). In August, 1914, the Montgomery County Sentinel reported that "Judge Joseph Reading has 20 city boarders with him this season, largest ever..." Joseph was still the co-owner of the Baltimore Road house at this time, and though it may have been a boarding house, evidence also points to the house on Highland Avenue as the Judge's boarding house and home.
4. Reading family history is taken from entries in Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District: Chapman Publishing (1898) and from newspaper abstracts of the period.
5. Land Records JA58/108 (1897).
6. Minute Books - Office of the Commissioners and Records of the Mayor and Council of Rockville - September, 1890; June-October, 1904; 1912-1917.
7. U.S. Public Health Service Bulletin #65, "Typhoid Fever in Rockville, Md"; U.S. Government Printing Office, and newspaper of the period.
8. Illustration from the Public Health Service Bulletin. The Bulletin indicated that a guest with undiagnosed typhoid fever stayed in the subject house for several weeks November-January.
9. Original Plat of "Croydon Park" at Montgomery County Plat Book 3, p. 272. 1963 replat of site at Plat Book 72, p. 6940.
10. Mrs. Patrick and her neighbors rediscovered the old underground spring in the winter of 1979 when the houses below her property were flooded. The consequence of this episode was less fateful, and the old drainage pipes were replaced.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land, Plat, and Tax Records. Montgomery County Sentinel. U.S. Public Health Service Bulletin #65. City records, Maps, and Diagram of 1914 Sewer System.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12,715 square feet

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 46 of Block C, Croyden Park, fronting on the north side of Baltimore Road.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel	Judy Christensen, Arch. Description
organization	Peerless Rockville	date May 1986
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone 762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

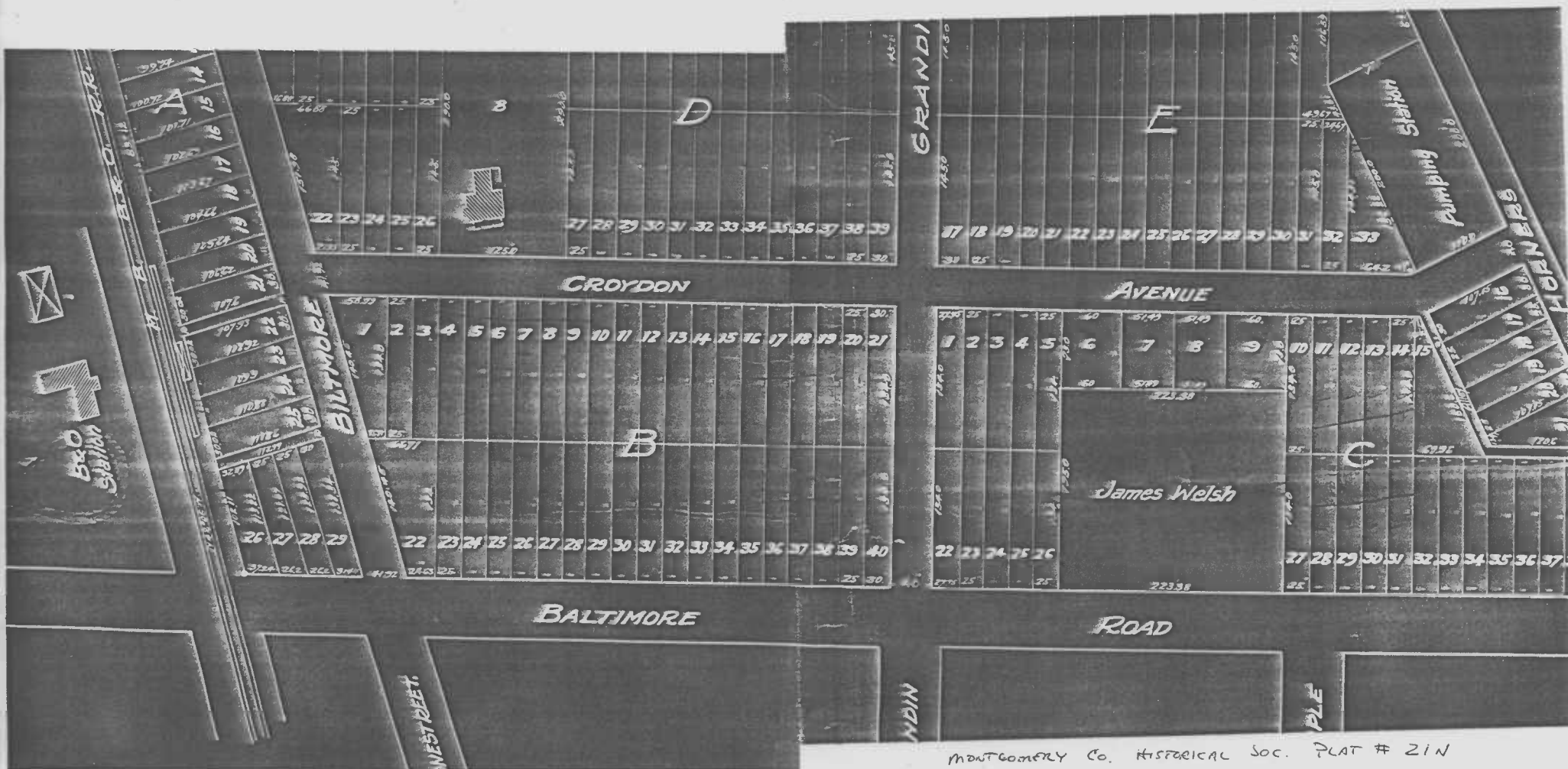
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



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Plat #21N, Plat of Croydon Park, 1924  
Montgomery County Historical Society

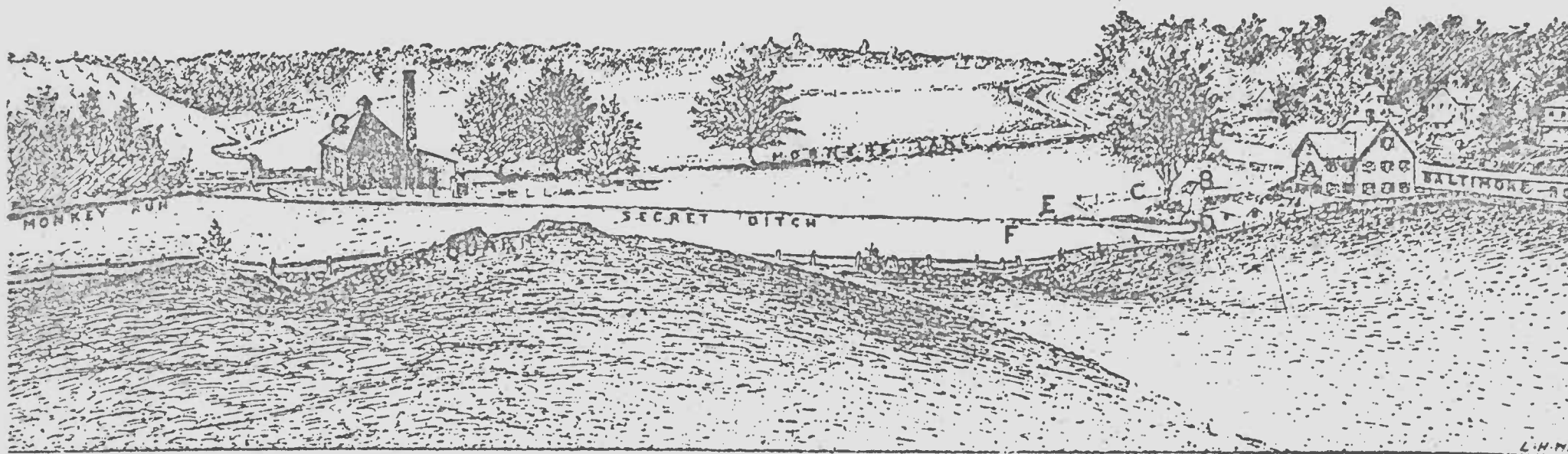


MONTGOMERY CO. HISTORICAL SOC. PLAT # 21N

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U.S. Public Health Service Bulletin #65  
"Typhoid Fever in Rockville, Md."  
U.S. Government Printing Office, 1914

Rockville, Md.  
Water Supply



FROM PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN 65, MAY 1914, BY COURTESY OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

*G marks the spot where typhoid bacilli entered the water supply of Rockville, Maryland, in the winter of 1913-1914 and spread typhoid fever through the little town. Lumsden of the Public Health Service worked out the story: a sick visitor at house A infected the privy B which drained into the "spring branch" D which at F ran into the "secret ditch" which passed near enough to the pumping station G for foul water to seep at times into an imperfectly protected well*

1982

# City of Rockville

scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/13/5

2

Typhoid House

308 Baltimore Road





RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

04860902

M: 26/13/5

308 Baltimore Rd  
Rockville

5-86